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WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1902-TWENTY PAGFS.

TWO CENTS.

To Question of Arbitration

CASTRO WILL BE IGNORED IN

Germany's Reply is Ready and Will Be Sent in a Few

Days.

arrangement for a satisfactory solution, while thoroughly safeguarding the interests of the powers concerned.

announcing that Great Britain had sent reply to the United States, adds:

consulted in any form, not even as to the terms on which arbitration might be acceptable to the powers."

America and the Blockade.

In a printed reply, made public today, to the recent question in parliament of Gibson Bowles, conservative, Premier Balfour says no intimation has been received from the government of the United States that it will object to American shipping being interferred with in the event of a blockade of the Venezuelan coast. The objections to the blockade, which it is proposed to estab-lish have been carefully considered. They can not, however be altogether removed, as some of them are inherent to that particular class of naval operations.

Mr. Bowles also asked "Whether, in view

of the destruction by the Germans of two gunboats and the consequent impossibility of holding them as pledges the government proposes to continue joint action with Ger-many?" The premier replied in the affirma-

BERLIN, December 19 .- Germany's answer to Venezuela's proposition for arbitration is ready and will be sent to the United States government in a day or two. The officials here maintain absolute silence regarding the character of the answer. The foreign office has no information to the effect that President Castro has bestowed on Minister Bowen full power to represent Venezuela in the settlement of the existing difficulties, but such a step toward a solution would be received with pleasure.

France Asks Equal Consideration. PARIS, December 19 .- The foreign office here desires to have it understood that the note sent to the French charge d'affaires at Caracas does not ask Venezuela to give preferential treatment to French claims, but only treatment equal to that which the other powers may receive through their recourse to force. This applies only to claims which have arisen since 1899, previous claims having been submitted to arbitration. Concerning recent claims France first offered to permit the Venezuelan courts to pass upon them, but since Germany and Great Britain expect to secure preference by the adoption of forcible collection, the French charge d'affaires has now been ordered to inform Venezuela that France ex-pects the same advantages in the adjustsecure for France equal treatment with the other nowers.

tion to be favorable to the acceptance when France sought to close the ports of Formosa against the rice trade. French

patched several warships to the Island of Curacoa to protect Dutch subjects and to observe events. The dispatch adds that it ssible Holland will join in the action of the allied powers against Venezuela.

Venezuela's Neighbors Friendly.

tion becoming more complicated.

Quito last night as a manifestation of sympathy with Venezuela.

President Castro has replied as follows to

President Plaza's message:

"Profound gratitude toward the government and noble people of Ecuador. The national honor is saved, although the right of force relens." of force reigns.'

Italy Receives Proposal.

Britain and Italy.

Was Granted.

preme court handed down decisions today granting new trials to Irwin A. Gardner and John Fitchette in the police corruption cases. Gardner was convicted of bribery. The new trial for Fitchette, who was convicted of extorting money, comes too late, as he died last week.

Dead List at Andijan Increases. LONDON, December 19.-A special dispatch from St. Petersburg says nearly 1,000

UNION STATION BILL

CONFEREES NOT TO HOLD MEET-ING TILL JANUARY 20.

Reduction of Amount to Be Paid by District Not an Important Stumbling Block.

It is stated on excellent authority that the conferees on the union station bill will probably not hold a meeting before January 20. This will allow ample time for a detailed examination of the bill as it passed the House by all interests that are concerned in it.

It is believed that the reduction of the

amount the District is to pay for railroad

improvements within the District of \$1,000,-000 will not prove a stumbling block of any considerable importance. It would not surorise many of the best-informed senators if, the bill having been advanced to its present stage, the railroad companies should come into this proposition and be satisfied, although they may put up some objections at first. It is generally believed that even if the Senate should be inclined to strike out this House amendment the House itself would not stand for it, and that there would be great danger of losing the legislation. It is thought that perhaps the railroad companies may seek to "split the difference," making the amount \$500,000. ence," making the amount \$500,000.

But even in .bzt case should the conferees agree to such a proposition the bill might be jeopardized in the House. In all its essential features the railroads have secured the solution of the problem for eliminating grade crossings and for uniting their interests in a single union station that they have better a said to be bill in the form it passed. desired, and the bill in the form it passed the House is regarded as one that should

The Street Railway Problem.

The street railroad problem involved in the bill is one that may cause considerable discussion when it comes up before the conferees. The House having objected to placing in the hands of the Commissioners of the District authority to locate street railroads, that matter will be in dispute. It is understood that the railroad companies would like to fix their rights in this matter by providing in the bill itself just what extensions they are to receive to provide the additional street car facilities that will be demanded by the location of the depot on Massachusetts avenue. They have regard-Massachusetts avenue. They have regarded this as necessary, though some senators and representatives who will be largely influential in determining the question think that if Mr. Babcock's idea of providing legislation in another bill is carried out it would be satisfactory. Mr. Babcock has taken the ground that such street railway legislation has no proper place in a bill for the elimination of grade crossings. Whether or not this provision will be retained in the or not this provision will be retained in the bill in some form or whether the entire matter of street railroads and their exten-sions will be provided in a separate measure will be for the conferees to pass upon.

BOSTON BID ACCEPTED.

Decision Regarding Transport Service From Seattle and Tacoma.

Secretary Root announced this morning that he had decided to accept the bid of the Boston Steamship Company, so far as it affects the transportation of troops and military supplies between the United States and the Philippines, which are sent or received by way of either Seattle or Tacoma. He said that this action was taken because the Boston Steamship Company has made a most reasonable bid and had waived the condition contained in its original bid that it should be guaranteed three-fourths of the government's business between the United States and the Philippines.

He explained that the existing service at

San Francisco would be continued for the present, and added that if satisfactory arrangements could be made for the disposal of the army transports, either by sale or of the army transports, either by sale or charter, the transportation companies at that port would be given a share of the government business. Before taking final action in the matter, however, he desired to confer further with the officers of the quartermaster's department. The Secretary had an interview today with Mr. Harriman of New York and Mr. Windsor of Boston, president of the Boston Steamship Company, the former advocating the claims of San Francisco and the latter the f San Francisco and the latter the claims of Puget sound ports.

MR. HEMENWAY'S PLAN.

Will Be a Candidate for Nomination for Governor of Indiana.

An interesting event in political and congressional circles was the announcement last night by Representative Hemenway of Indiana before leaving town for the Christmas holidays that he will be a candidate of Indiana in the next campaign.

As Mr. Hemenway has been prominently mentioned as prospective chairman of the appropriations committee in the next Congress the announcement of his gubernatorial aspirations has caused considerable gossip and speculation at the Capitol. If Mr. Hemenway should be nominated

he would leave Congress at the end of the first session of the Fifty-eighth Congress, and would, therefore, have served one term as chairman of the appropriations commit-tee, if the program for his appointment to that place is carried out.

Mr. Hemenway has risen rapidly in Indiana politics. He came to the House in

the Fifty-fourth Congress and soon won important committee assignments. He is regarded as a careful and conservative leg-islator and a politician of ability.

GILES B. JACKSON RETAINED. To Aid Defense in Suits Brought by

John S. Wise. Special Dispatch to The Evening Star. RICHMOND, Va., December 19.-Giles B.

Jackson of this city, who for years has him a cable message from Secretary Hay held a position as an executive officer of saying the secretary was disposed to con- the Negro National League of Business sent to the investment of Minister Bowen | Men, has been retained by leading negroes with full powers to settle the Venezuelan of the state to appear in the federal courts controversy if agreeable to Germany, Great and resist the attempts of Captain John and resist the attempts of Captain John S. Wise and the negro lawyers who are suing the members of the convention and the governor for damages. Glies Jackson is the leading negro lawyer of the south, and has always had the respect of the best class of negroes, and enjoys the confidence of the white men of the city.

POSTMASTER GENERAL PAYNE. His Attack of Indigestion Not a Seri-

ous One.

Postmaster General Payne was stricken with acute indigestion while on his way to the White House yesterday about noon, and was taken immediately to his hotel, where two physicians were summoned, and he was relieved in a few hours. The attack was not serious and the Postmaster General soon recovered. He attended the cabinet meeting this morning, and was at the Post Office Department late this afternoon transacting the routine business of his office and receiving callers. He said he did not feel ill today, although he had not completely recovered from the effects of the attack of yesterday. The attack was slight,

AT THE WHITE HOUSE RATES ON IMPORTS POINT TOWARD PEACE

zuelan Situation.

HIS PLANS FOR FUTURE.

Proposition-Ex-Secretary of the Treasury Gage a Caller.

The cabinet had the longest meeting today that has been held in the new executive offices. It lasted over two hours. Secretary Hay is usually the first cabinet officer to leave a cabinet meeting when his department has little or nothing for discussion, but it was noticeable today that he did not mitted that the latest phases of the Venezuelan situation were discussed by the President and his advisers to the exclusion of nearly everything else.

It was understood that Secretary Hay was able to lay before the cabinet the answers of England, Germany and Italy to the requests of President Castro for arbitration. It was these answers that were talked over and that evidently brought about considerable discussion, judging from the time taken by the cabinet in adjourn-

ing.

After a thorough discussion of the subject the cabinet gave its unqualified approval to everything that had been done by Secretary Hay and also to his plans for the future, so far as they were outlined.

It is gathered that the attitude of the United States is for the present a waiting one, in the hope that the three allies will soon be able to agree upon the basis upon which they are willing to accept arbitration. So far no notice of the projected blockade of Venezuela has been officially served on our government.

Discussing Statehood Proposition.

Senator Beverldge called early on the President this morning and remained with him a short time discussing the proposition of statehood for Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. The President is taking deep interest in the question and is securing all the facts to be had from all sources. As a man familiar with conditions in the west, he has a strong sympathy with the desires of the people of the territories for statehood, but at the same time he does not want to see something done that is not warranted. It is practically certain that he would give long consideration to the omnibus bill should it pass the Senate and come him, and the beliefe strongly pr that he would not hesitate to veto it. Des-pite this known attitude of the President, the supporters of statehood are going right along and hope to be able to secure his signature to the document by presenting all facts that might influence him.

Delegate Rodey of New Mexico presented to the President today some citizens of the territory, among them being Prof. Larazola and Sergeant Farnoff, who served in the Rough Rider regiment with the President. sented constituents, who received from the President assurance that he is going to visit

the Pacific coast next summer. For an Elastic Currency.

Former Secretary Gage and Mr. John H. Rhoades, chairman of the finance committee of the New York chamber of commerce, called upon the President today to present to him resolutions recently adopted by the chamber of commerce in advocacy of a more elastic currency system. President Roosevelt received them very cordially, but did not indicate during the brief call what his attitude regarding the resolutions would be. Representative Dayton of West Virginia called on the President to introduce

Senator Iris E. Robinson, Dr. J. R. Fitch and Mr. Teeters. Senators Penrose and Foster called or the President to talk about matters in their states.

Representative Lacey had an interview with the President to urge a constituent for appointment on the isthmian canal com-Senator Martin of Virginia called to pre-

sent friends. Gen. Frederick Grant, who has arrived in Washington to attend the funeral of his mother, called on the President to pay his respects.

Assistant Secretary Ailes called at the White House with Frank A. Vanderlip, former assistant secretary of the treasury. Opening of the White House.

The completion of the work on and around the White House is nearing an end. Since the beginning of the work the when they may be reopened. Nothing has been decided on in this direction. It is assumed that the east room will be opened to the public so soon as all the work is over, and that the front grounds will also be kept open, as in the past, but this is not known. Department clerks who formerly saved time by cutting through the southern part of the grounds on their way to and from the State, War and Navy departments and treasury have been hopeful that the grounds would be opened again, so as to save them time, but it has been decided will not be opened in the future.

ON THE DISTRICT BILL

Commissioners Discuss Revenues With Appropriations Committee.

For three full days the District Commisioners have been before the subcommittee of the House appropriations committee in consideration of the District of Columbia appropriation bill. Today's hearing concluded the consideration of the measure

until after the holiday recess. The bill has been practically gone over so far as the discussion of the different Items which go to make it up are concerned. There are, however, other matters to be considered before the work of the Commis-sioners will be concluded in connection with

the subcommittee.

The all-important phase of the financial legislation for the District to be had at this session of Congress is the question of making separate provision for the current needs of the District and the permanent municipal improvements already authorized and to be authorized.

to be authorized.
On this point the Commissioners have dwelt at length. They have long and urgently recommended that the money for the latter class of municipal improvements be provided either through a loan from the general treasury or through an issue of

Cabinet Discusses the Vene- Investigated by Interstate Replies From the Powers Re-Commerce Commission.

SEC'Y HAY'S ACTION STRIKING DIFFERENCES RESPONSES RECEIVED

IT WAS APPROVED AS WELL AS BETWEEN CHARGES ON LOCAL AND FOREIGN FREIGHT.

Senator Beveridge Talks of Statehood Railway Agent Said Change in Law Would Be Good in the

NEW YORK, December 19.-The interstate commerce commission met today to investigate the railroad rates on import traffic. C. S. White, freight traffic manager of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, presented a schedule showing the charges of his company for the inland transportadepart so quickly, and it was generally ad- tion of imported freight. His railroad has maintained the rates shown in the schedule since the beginning of the year without variation or concession. The rates on the ocean steamers he did not believe were ocean steamers he did not believe were fixed in New York. Replying to Commissioner Prouty, Mr. White said the rate charged by his road on imports between New York and Chicago is 18 cents per 100 pounds, whereas like goods originating in New York pay 65 cents per 100 pounds freight to Chicago. "There is no discrimination. The 18 cents is the proportion we receive of a through rate from some other receive of a through rate from some other place, while the 65 cents is the total cost of through carriage from shipping points to lestination.'

"Your foreign agent works on commis-sion?" Mr. Prouty asked. "You give him your rate and he charges what he can get? With the profit he makes and the commis-sion you allow he has to protect his con-tracts?" "That is how I understand it," Mr. White

Charges on Cement.

Albert T. Meyer, manager of the Vul-canite Cement Company, testified that the rate per barrel from Vulcanite, N. J., to East St. Louis is 66 1-5 cents, while from Antwerp or Hamburg the through rate is only 65 cents.

only 65 cents.

Frank Harriott, commissioner of the import committee of the trunk lines, said only good faith prevents the different railroads from making concessions to shippers. He promised to prepare a statement showing that certain kinds of imports are carried at smaller rates than the domestic articles.

"What would be the result in the port of New York if Congress should enact a law," Commissioner Prouty asked, "that no railroad might carry imported goods at a less road might carry imported goods at a less rate than it charges for domestic goods?"
"In the long run," Mr. Harriott replied, "it might be a good thing. Temporarily it would stop trade. The improvement would have to come by an adjustment of freights by the steamship lines."

M. F. Berry Testifies.

Marcellus F. Berry, manager of the foreign department of the American Express Company, said his company makes its charges for forwarding goods on the basis of the steamship charges plus the railroad charges. The company, he said, receives no concessions below the announced tariff.
Samuel Bettle of the International Navigation Company, said he believed the pub-lished tariffs of the railroad companies are absolutely maintained.

"There is no fixed tariff for ocean freights." Mr. Bettle said. "There have been times when I would not touch cement at any figures and times when I have paid to secure it because getting the weight that way was cheaper than handling rock for ballast."

CUBAN PROGRESS.

Striking Picture Drawn by the British Minister at Havana.

A striking picture of the development of Cuba since the Spanish war is presented in a report to his home government by Mr. Lionel Carden, the British minister at Havana, a copy of which has just reached Washington. The minister says:

"It is highly satisfactory to note the remarkable progress the island has made in the past three years in spite of the deplorable condition in which it was left at the end of the war. The production of sugar has risen from 335,000 tons in 1899 to over 800,000 tons in 1901, and will probably reach 1,000,000 in the coming crop. The cultiva-tion and manufacture of tobacco, as well as the minor industries, show considerable improvement: the stock of cattle on the island, thanks to large importations, is now probably upward of 750,000, as compared with less than 200,000 at the beginning of 1899, and, finally, the value of the exports has building and grounds have been closed to the public. Many inquiries are made as to pounds, and would have reached much higher figures but for the fall in the price

of sugar. "Considering how little financial assistance the Cubans have received from abroad, it speaks very highly for their energy and industry that they should have achieved so much in so short a time and with such limited resources at their command, and affords strong ground for believing that the work of developing the island's industries anew, commenced under such difficulties,

will be persevered in."
All through the minister's report, treating All through the minister's report, treating of the details of each branch of commerce, he points out to his countrymen the evergrowing competition of the United States, and the report is full of advice to the English traders as to the best means of meeting this competition and of holding the ground in Cuban trade, which is rapidly being taken from them by the United States.

Ex-Postmaster General Smith Calls. Mr. Charles Errory Smith of Philadelphia, former Postmaster General, was a caller on the Postmaster General yesterday. Mr. the Postmaster General averterday. Mr. Smith came to Washington yesterday to attend the dinner at the White House last night, and took advantage of his visit here to call on some of his old associates of the Post Office Department. Mr. Smith expressed himself as being very glad to get in Washington again for a short time to renew his old acquaintances. He is kept pretty close to his deal in Philadelphia, where he is the editor of one of the large morning newspapers.

Increased Duties at Fladivostock. The State Department is advised by Commercial Agent Greener at Viadivostock that an additional tax is now levied on all foreign wines of 90 cents, and on foreign champagne and cognac of \$1.06 per bottle.

Colombia Reducing Its Duties. Minister Hart, at Bogota, has cabled the State Department that a recent government decree provides for a progressive reduction of 10 per cent monthly in the export duties of Colombia, beginning January 1, 1903.

United States Minister Squiers at Havana has informed the Secretary of State that

garding Arbitration.

MANY DIFFICULTIES FIRST TO

BE OVERCOME. Conference at the State Department Between Secretary Hay, the British

Ambassador and Senator Depew. Secretary Hay has received partial reain. Germany and Italy respecting the pro-

sponses from the governments of Great Britposal to arbitrate the Venezuelan difficulties. Great Britain is favorable to arbitration provided the proper safeguards can be had; Germany accepts arbitration in principle, but suggests a number of obstacles which must be removed before an arrangement can be reached; Italy, as the junior partner in the alliance, is well disposed toward arbitration, but feels that she should be bound by the action of the senior partners, Great Britain and Germany, To secure these results, the American embasies at London, Berlin and Rome have been working energetically to carry out the instructions of Secretary Hay to ascertain how the proposal would be received. As far

Guarantees of Payment.

as England is concerned, the safeguards re-

In this connection, as indicated in these columns yesterday, some consideration is again being given to the feasibility of the assumption of any responsibility for any award assessed against Venezuela by responsible private agencies, but the United States government is determined not to allow itself to be drawn into the position of a guarantor in that case for no matter how much disposed to shelter Venezuela in her troubles, the precedent once established might require the United States to become the financial backer of all South and Central America. However, if private concerns can be induced to enter the field the United States government will do what it can to reduce their risks.

Secretary Hay, Sir Michael Herbert, the British ambassador, and Senator Depew were in conference for a time this morning and it is suspected that this phase of the case was touched upon, although no con-firmation can be had at this time.

Germany's Demand.

The German position presents the greatest difficulties, for not only does it involve a teers. In no case would they for a moment demand for apologies which are extremely repugnant to the thin-skinned Venezuelans, but also presents so many points requiring adjustment that it is evident that many days or perhaps weeks must elapse before that adjustment can be effected and the case prepared for arbitration. And the danger of delay in the face of a blockade which seriously cripples neutral commerce and invites hostile collisions with the Venezuelans cannot be overestimated. A few acts of genuine war, such as the killing of saffors, or sinking of ships, or the bombardment of a town, involving the loss of life, and the hope of arbitration would then, it is feared, have to be dismissed. Therefore he efforts of the United States must be directed toward hastening Germany's ac-

tion on the arbitration proposal.

The Italian position is, of course, of less oncern than that of the other allies. The Italian ambassador here, in his intercourse with the State Department, has been ex-tremely moderate and considerate; giving secretary Hay the impression that he is well disposed to second any effort of the United States to terminate the present dan-

gerous situation. The French Contention.

Beginning with a notice to the powers that she regarded as demanding prior payment the claims of French subjects against Venezuela, the payment for which had already been arranged for, the French government has now served notice that without abating that claim in any respect, it also claims the right to have the claims of French citizens which have arisen since the adjustment above spoken of considered by the joint tribunal which will adjust the Venezuelan debts on a basis of equality with those of the other nations. That contention is strongly resisted by some of the allied powers, and is one of the points which is likely to lead to the consumption of much time. And the worst feature is that it is an issue that must be disposed of before a final arrangement can be made to arbitrate the case.

WILL NOT GO TO THE HOUSE. Decision Regarding the Reciprocity

Treaty With Cuba. After mature consideration of the requirements of the Piatt amendment and the custom in such cases, the President has concluded that it will not be necessary to send the reciprocity treaty to the House of Representatives. So the only copy to go before Congress is now on the executive calendar of the Senate, and if the House feels its prerogatives have been invaded by the adjustment of tariff duties by means of a treaty, the administration regards that as an issue between the House and Senate with which it is not directly

concerned. Leading members of the House, including members of the committee on foreign affairs and especially members of the com-mittee on ways and means have already expressed themselves to the effect that, affecting revenues as it does, the Cuban treaty should come before the House. However, it is said that the House may be satisfied in this matter by passing upon the reciprocity proposition incidental to the consideration of some legislation which will be necessary to give effect to the treaty, though that document itself will be ratified solely by the Senate if ratified at all in Washington.

Personal Mention. Mr. Edward Brush of New York and Mr.

C. P. Goss of Waterbury, Conn., are at the Arlington. Mr. E. S. Clarke of St. Louis and Mr. J. B. Morris of Chicago are at the New Wil-

Mr. Allen Webster of Springfield, Mass., and Mr. F. M. Ambrose of New York are at the Raleigh. Mr. O. L. Swenson of Sioux Falls, S. D., warden of the South Dakota penitentiary, is visiting his son, A. W. Swenson of Georgetown.

A Lake With Curative Properties.

Commercial Agent Greener reports to the State Department from Vladivostock the existence of a small lake in the Atchinsk district, fifteen miles from Ujoora, the President Palma has formally received the | waters of which are said to be efficacious in persons were killed by the earthquake De-cember 16 at Andijan, Russian Central Asia. They were mostly native Turcomans,

They were mostly

THE MILITIA BILL

LIKELY TO BE PASSED AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.

Indications Are That the Democrats in the Senate Will Not Adopt Obstructive Tactics.

The prevailing opinion of well-informed senators on the militia bill is that it will be passed after the holidays. When the bill first came from the House of Representatives and was in the Senate committee there were features of it that were objectionable to some republicans as well as democrats. Discussion has resulted in making practically every republican in the Senate in favor of the measure, while there are a number of democrats who will probably

passage at the present time. The general view of senators on both sides of the chamber is that there should be a militia bill. Senator Bate, leader of the minority on the committee on military affairs, although now criticising some por-tions of the bill and leading the opposition, has warmly advocated the passage of some measure of the kind,

vote in favor of it, even if put upon its

The 24th Section.

The discussion as far as it has gone on has resulted in focusing the democratic opposition on the twenty-fourth section of the bill, that section providing, among other things, that the reserve force designated as the national volunteer reserve shall be enrolled for a period of five years, to be called upon at a moment's notice by the President for either active service or for purposes of drill, inspection and in-struction. This volunteer force of 100,000 men in that way will be made up of those who have served in the regular or volunferred to are believed to relate to the ques-tion of guarantee, which is full of difficulteer armies, and in addition to the regular army will make it possible for the President at any time to call out a force of 250,000 or 300,000 men at a moment's no-

It is safe to say that if the republicans should agree to amend the bill so that the reserve force to be called out should be 100,000 and eliminate the additional en-rollment of those who have served in either the regular or volunteer army to an equal number, making the entire available force 200,009 instead of 100,000, the democratic opposition would fade away.

. No Compromise Likely.

But is is not at all likely that republicans will agree to any essential change of the 24th section. They will probably not be willing even to restrict the power of the President over the 100,000 men enrolled for five years from among those who have seen active service, so that they can only be called out in case of actual need and not merely for drill and instruction. They re-gard the necessity for drill and instruction as of equal weight with the necessity for active service, as to do away with it would be to decrease the efficiency of the volunagree to modify this section, except to save the passage of the bill, and it is quite generally believed that that will not be neces-

In the present Congress obstructive measures have not been adopted to any appreciable extent by democrats in the Senate. They have been satisfied to place their objections on record and to permit a vote. It is believed that this will be their course in the case of the militia bill. It is acknowledged that should opposition to the bill be made in the form of many and extended debates on it that the shortness of the session would prevent its passage. The democrats show no inclination to do this. The debate thus far has succeeded in strengthening rather than weakening the bill in the Senate, and after the recess several speeches against it may be expected, but the indications are that they will be brief, and that after democrats who desire to go on record have spoken a vote can be taken.

Secretary Root has done much to push this bill ahead, and it has been discussed by him with leading democratic senators made in the form of many and extended de by him with leading democratic senators and any others who cared to get his views at first hand.

DELAY ON CANAL TREATY.

Several Reasons Assigned for the Condition of Affairs. Confirmation of the Panama canal treaty

with Colombia has again been moved into the future, and it is now said that no treaty can be expected before Christmas, and probably not until the beginning of next year. Several reasons are assigned for the delay. In the first place, Mr. Cromwell, counsel for the Panama Canal Company, who has been the moving spirit in the negotiations, has been very ill, and is in no condition to do business just now. In the second place the Colombian charge, Dr. Herran, has not yet received complete instruccoming in at intervals, and, although he has full powers, he does not feel that he should act finally until he is sure that he Lastly, the question of price is still open, and the charge is yet receiving information from the Bogota authorities as to the annual aggregate of the revenues derived from the isthmus, a matter which must be determined before the price for the conces-

sion can be fixed. REQUIREMENTS EXCEEDED.

Report Regarding the Speed Trial of the Monitor Nevada. Secretary Moody this morning received a

telegram from Capt. C. J. Train, president of the naval board of inspection, saying that the official trial of the monitor Nevada was successfully completed yesterday over the Cape Ann course, and that she made a speed of 12.95 knots, uncorrected for tide. This is nearly a knot in excess of her contract requirement. The Nevada was built at the Bath iron works at a cost of a little less than \$1,000,000, and is designed for harbor defense. She is about 252 feet long and carries 8-inch armor. armament consists of two 12-inch guns, four 4-inch guns and several five-pounders

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

House Committee Orders Favorable Re port on Senate Bill.

The Senate bill for a department of commerce and labor, with a cabinet officer at its head, was today ordered, by a vote of 5 to 8, to be favorably reported to the House by the interstate and foreign commerce committee of the House. There are a number of amendments in the bill as it comes from the House committee. The report on the bill will be drawn by Mr. Mann of Illinois, and will be made shortly

after the holiday recess. The bureaus and branches of the government service which are transferred to the

ment service which are transferred to the new department are as follows:

The light house board and the light house service, the national bureau of standards, the coast and geodetic survey, the immigration bureau and the jurisdiction over the enforcement of the Chinese exclusion law now exercised by customs officers, the treasury bureau of statistics, the census office, the department of labor, the fish commission and the jurisdiction now exercised by the Treasury Department over Alaskan fur seals and salmon, foreign commerce bureau of the State Department and

TELL OF OUTRAGES

Extent and character of cir-

culation fix the value of a news

paper's advertising worth. In

quality and quantity The Star's

position is unquestioned.

Non-Union Miners Testify Against Strikers.

VIOLENCE OFTEN USED

ATTEMPTS TO WRECK HOUSES WITH DYNAMITE.

In One Instance the Man's Wife Was Beaten - Effects of

SCRANTON, Pa., December 19.-Chairman Gray, when the strike commission opened its session today, recalled the incldent of Wednesday when the accuracy of the wage statements of two men employed by the Pennsylvania Coal Company was questioned. The lawyers for the miners challenged the good faith of the general manager of the company, and Chairman Gray said that if the company could not show how many men figured in the wages handed to the commission it might shake the faith of the commission in the wage statement. Chairman Gray said that he has since been informed that the auditor of the company notified one of the assistant recorders when the figures were handed in that the company was unable to give in all cases the exact number of men sharing in the earnings. The chairman said he did not wish to convey the impression that the commission impugned the good faith of

The first witness today was George W. Bowen, formerly a miner, but now a coal inspector. Nothing new was brought out by his testimony.

the company.

Attempt to Blow Up House. The lawyers for the non-union men then called James Elias of Scranton, who testified that an attempt was made to blow up his house. The building was considerably damaged and his wife was beaten by the wives of strikers. Counsel for the nonunion men then submitted lists of boycotts against merchants in and about Wilkes-barre which counsel claimed were instigated by the striking mine workers.
Eight witnesses were called up to the noon recess, all of them non-union men, who testified to the methods pursued by strikers during the suspension. One man said a union miner attempted to blow up his house, and another said he was beaten and was threatened with a ducking in the river if he did not stop work. Another said his boy was laid off by the druggist he was working for because the druggist was warned his place would be boycotted if he did not dismiss the boy, and another man who was not a mine worker said he was mistaken for a non-union man and beaten so badly that he was laid up for two months.

Testimony was also given that boycotts of all kinds, intimidations and violence were committed by the strikers. At this point a

recess was taken. DEFENSE FUND VOTED.

Virginia Appropriates \$5,000 to Defend New Constitution.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star. RICHMOND, Va., December 19 .- The Legislature yesterday passed a bill appropriating the sum of \$5,000 for the employment of counsel to assist the attorney general of the state in defending the members of the constitutional convention and the officers of the state against the suits brought by Capt. John S. Wise and the two negro lawyers for damages resulting from

the disfranchisement of the negroes. Senator Wickham, Senator Barksdale Senator McIlwaine and others said that they were ready to vote the sum of \$500,000 to defend the state, or more, if necessary. Several of the senators said they were op-posed to the new constitution and to the convention, but since the attacks had been made they were convinced that it was the duty of every loyal Virginian to stand by and support the constitution. There was not a vote against the measure in the senate. The bill passed the house with less

than a dozen dissenting votes. TO PROHIBIT KISSING BIBLE. Bill Introduced in the Virginia Legis-

lature Today. Special Dispatch to The Evening Star. RICHMOND, Va., December 19.-In the senate today Senator McIlwayne of Petersburg introduced a bill to prohibit the kissing of the Holy Bible in the administration of oaths to persons summoned as witnesses has the last word from his government. or to officials entering upon the discharge of duties to which they have been chosen. He says it is a sanitary measure. The bill provides that the sanctity of the oath is to be unchanged and to remain as though the

bill were not enacted into law. The bill to redistrict the state for mem bers of Congress will be presented in the house immediately after the holidays. It will deal with the first, second, fifth, sixth and ninth districts.

ANTONIO TADDAI ACQUITTED. Italian Who Shot Three Men at Reading, Pa.

READING, Pa., December 19 .- Antonio Taddal, an Italian, seventeen years old, who, on July 4 last, shot John Trayor, Edward Hartman and Samuel Stitzel, young men who had assaulted him after having tried to pick a fight with him while he was playing a street plane, and all three of whom subsequently died of their injuries, was acquitted in court here today. Taddal claimed self-defense, and said that he killed ne three men to save his own life.

COL. ARTHUR LYNCH INDICTED. Member of British Parliament Charged With High Treason.

LONDON, December 19.-The grand jury summoned to consider the indictment of Col. Arthur Lynch, member of parliament for Galway, who was arrested June 11 on the charge of high treason in connection with the part he took in the South African war, where he is alleged to have commanded the Irish Brigade, returned a true bill to-

ed the Irish Brigade, returned a true on to-day against the defendant,

The lord chief justice, Baron Alverstone,
in charging the jury remarked that it was
sixty-two years since a grand jury had to
deal with such a charge, which was the
highest crime known in law. Col. Lynch's
trial at the bar is expected to begin Janu-

Commissioner to St. Louis Fair. BERLIN, December 19.-Secretary von

Nostiz of the Saxon legation in Berlin been appointed Saxony's special com sioner to the St. Louis exposition. He will co-operate with Herr Lewald, the German imperial commissioner to the exposition, in nufacturers of Saxony to

BRITAIN MAKES REPLY

With Venezuela.

ANSWER IS PACIFIC

NEGOTIATIONS.

LONDON, December 19.-Great Britain has sent a reply to the United States in regard to the suggestion that the Venezuelan question should be submitted to arbitration. The tenor of the reply, it is expected here, will tend to bring about some

The note to Reuter's Telegram Company,

"The statements issuing from Caracas to the effect that President Castro has empowered Minister Bowen to act as the representative of Venezuela are regarded in London as open to question. Any such action on the part of President Castro would be considered wholly beside the mark. The powers concerned will deal solely with the United States in the matter of arbitration. The government of President Castro will

Germany's Answer Ready.

ment of claims as Venezuela grants to Germany and Great Britain. This is not in-tended as a coercive measure, but only to Later in the day it was ascertained that the French government had received de-tailed advices showing the American postarbitration and opposing a pacific blockade. It was said by officials here that the American attitude toward a pacific blockade was the same as that asserted by Great Britain

policy since then had been firmly opposed to pacific blockades. Although such a policy since the had been firmly opposed for the republican nomination for governor had not yet been formally announced was applicable to Venezuela. A dispatch to the Liberte from The Hague says the government of Holland has dis-

LIMA, Peru, December 19 .- A number of army officers here propose cabling their names to the president of Venezuela offering their services in the case of the situa-QUAYAQUIL, Ecuador, December 19 .-There was a large parade in the streets of

ROME, December 19.-Ambassador Meyer visited Foreign Minister Prinetti at the foreign office today and communicated to

DECISION CAME TOO LATE. John Fitchette Died Before New Trial ST. PAUL, Minn., December 19 .- The su-

Mr. Tower Presents Credentials. BERLIN, December 19.-Ambassador Tower presented his credentials to Emperor William at the palace today. All the members of the staff of the embassy were pres-